Extradition treaty with Bangladesh

310. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have signed an extradition treaty during the meeting of Home Minister of the SAARC in May, 2006;

(b) whether the issue of extradition treaty was also discussed during that meeting;

(c) whether India has submitted a list of Indian fugitives who are sheltering in Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, what was the outcome of the discussions held and to what extent decision taken would help in reducing the anti-Indian activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) India has been periodically handling over lists of India Insurgent Group (IIG) camps and fugitives/IIGs arrested/staying in Bangladesh. These were most recently handed over during the Home Secretary level talks held in New Delhi from October 27-28, 2005. Bangladesh side, in response, reiteratd that it 'does not allow its territory to be used by any entity or element inimical to the neighbours of Bangladesh including India".

Trade with China

311. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China have agreed to open Nathu La Pass, which was closed for the last more than four decades, for trade between India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum, in terms of dollars of trade expected through Nathu La Pass between India and China;

(d) whether the Ministry found any grey areas or difficult pockets where both the countries need to be more careful and vigilant looking at the disturbances in the North-Eastern region of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereon and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Border trade through Nathula resumed with effect from July 6, 2006 at the Changgu border trade mart at Sherathan on the Indian side and Rengingang trade mart on the Chinese side. Border trade through Nathu La will take place from June 1-September 30 every year. It will, however, be open to the designated authorities of the two sides to extend or reduce the period of trade when considered necessary on account of exigencies like weather conditions.

(c) Government are positive that the quantum of border trade through Nathu La will gradually develop, though the precise volume is difficult to predict at this early juncture.

(d) and (e) Arrangements for border trade through Nathula have been put in place after taking into consideration all relevant aspects, including those related to security.

Summit at Shanghai

312. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the heads of the States and Governments, except India were present in the meet of Shanghai; and

(b) whether the visit of the Indian Prime Minister would have helped in strengthening the friendship between India and China, especially in this year of friendship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Heads of State of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Pakistan